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USDA Assistant Secretary Opens 3rd Pan African SPS Conference

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Report Highlights:

Dr. Gregory L. Parham, USDA's Assistant Secretary for Administration, recently visited Ethiopia where he opened the 3rd Pan African Conference on SPS Risk Analysis. He also met with Ethiopian government officials to discuss areas of cooperation, toured the national animal health and vaccine labs, and visited USDA project sites.

USDA Assistant Secretary Opens 3rd Pan African SPS Workshop in Ethiopia:

Dr. Gregory Parham, USDA's Assistant Secretary for Administration, opened the 3rd Pan African Conference on SPS Risk Analysis, which was held in Ethiopia from May 16-17, 2016. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Parham emphasized USDA's continued commitment to provide capacity building to support Africa's trade of safe food and agricultural products, which he said was critical to feed the world's growing population. Dr. Parham encouraged conference participants, who were technical experts from governments across Africa, to consider the business opportunities for investing in infrastructure, distribution, and other systems that are required to support this trade within Africa and with the rest of the world.

Dr. Tsegaye Habtemariam, Tuskegee University's former Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, was one of the keynote speakers at the conference. He called this "Africa's century" and called on the continent to work together to realize this aspiration. In addition, Dr. Habtemariam mentioned that climate change will require Africa and the rest of the world to come together to address the challenges and capitalize on opportunities.

During the two-day conference, participants reviewed and discussed several country-specific SPS case studies. These discussions set the stage for the hands-on SPS Risk Analysis Workshop, *Risk & Trade Challenges in the 21st Century*, which was held from May 18-27. The workshop covered the various qualitative and quantitative aspects of risk assessment.

The purpose of these two back-to-back events, which were organized by Tuskegee University with a USDA/APHIS grant, was to increase participants' capacity to effectively conduct science-based SPS risk assessment with the end goal of "enhancing and sustaining global food security vis-à-vis agricultural product export opportunities." Tuskegee has been offering this training in Africa for more than a decade.

After attending the conference, the Assistant Secretary met with the State Minister for Livestock to discuss areas of cooperation. He toured the Addis Ababa University's Vet School in Debre Zeit, as well as the National Animal Health Diagnostic & Investigation Center (NAHDIC) and National Vaccine Institute (NVI), both of which are under the Ministry of Livestock. Dr. Parham also visited a USDA Food for Progress-supported dairy farm where he met the female owner and learned how the program



Dr. Gregory Parham Opening 3rd Pan African SPS Conference

had helped her grow and make her small dairy operation sustainable. Afterward, he visited a rose farm and a local grocery store that has a variety of U.S. products on its shelves.



Moderating Panel Discussion at Conference



Visiting AAU Vet School



Holding U.S. Apples at Local Grocery Store



National Animal Health Diagnostic & Investigative Center (NAHDIC)



Visit to USDA-Supported Dairy Farm